

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of May 21, 2008, and for agreeing during the telephone interview to mail a new action upon receipt of this reply.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-3 and 9-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 are independent claims. Claims 9-14 and 27 depend from claim 1, claims 15-20 and 28 depend from claim 2, and claims 21-26 and 29 depend from claim 3.

Response to Advisory Action Mailed May 19, 2008

In the Advisory Action dated May 19, 2008, the Examiner states that the request for reconsideration does not place the application in condition for allowance because "Applicant filed newly amended limitations of which were not previously presented on the record prior to the Final Rejection dated 12/17/2007. The newly amended limitations will require additional search and further consideration in order to determine patentability."

As discussed in our telephone interview of May 21, 2008, in the Reply to the Final Office Action filed on April 17, 2008, claims 1-3 were amended to incorporate the limitations of now canceled claims 27-29. Thus, because the limitations that were added to claims 1-3 were taken entirely from claims 27-29, consideration and search have already occurred with regard to these limitations and, accordingly, further consideration and search should not be necessary at this time. The amendments at least place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments submitted in the Reply to the Final Office Action filed


on April 17, 2008 be entered and requests appropriate consideration of the present application in view of these amendments and the arguments submitted therewith.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be responsive to all outstanding issues and place the application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or any other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 15115/153001.

Dated: May 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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